Second Lieut. Horace W. Thompson (XC 1901-04)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour

Horace William Blair Leo Thompson

Rank: Second Lieutenant
Unit: 11th Australian Infantry Battalion
Date of death: 3 May 1915
Place of death: Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire
Cause of death: Killed in action
Place of association: Kalgoorlie, Australia
Memorial details: Courtney's and Steel's Post Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey
Memorial Reference: Special Memorial No. 55

From “The Xaverian” 1915 p. 49-51

Lieutenant Horace Thompson (1901-1904).—three years ago we had to tell of the sad death of Robert, his brother, who was drowned in the terrific cyclone at Bulla Bulla, which worked such destruction, and of which the papers at the time were full. We offer out sincere sympathy to his family in the new affliction which has fallen upon them.

The following letter of sympathy was sent by the commanding officers:

Gaba Tepe, 30th May, 1915

Dear Mr. Thompson,-

It is with feelings of deep regret that I have to confirm the report, which no doubt you have had ere this from the Defence Department, of the death of your son, Lieutenant H. B. Thompson. He was a son a father might be well proud of. From the time he joined the force, early in August last, until he died, he was one of my most loyal helpers, indeed I might say friends. It was a new force, and he like all the other members, joined as a private; but it was not long before I proved his sterling value, and appointed him to the rank of Corporal, and shortly after he again received a step yo the rank of Lance-Sergeant for doing his duty fearlessly. He remained in this rank until the end of April, when through the death of two of our officers, I recommended him for promotion to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant; this

Courtney's Post, towards the northern end of the original Anzac line, was named from Lieut-Colonel R E Courtney, CB, VD, who brought the 14th Australian Infantry Battalion to it on 27 April 1915. Steel's Post was next to it on the south-west and was named from Major T. H. Steel, 14th Battalion. Both these positions were occupied on 25 April 1915 and held until the evacuation in December.

There are 225 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 160 of the burials are unidentified but there are Special Memorials to 58 casualties believed to be buried among them.
was approved, and I feel, had he been spared, a great future was before.

As you no doubt are aware, the landing here, under extremely strong opposition, tried the courage of all, and your son did his duty nobly and well. From the 25th April, the time we landed, until the 4th May, the date of his death, we were under very heavy fire all the time. During the first three days no one got any sleep, and very little to eat, yet through it all he maintained his cheerful spirits.

On the 3rd May it was decided to remove, if possible, a force of the enemy on our flank, and I was detailed to take charge of the force. I asked for volunteers, pointing out the danger of the venture, yet your son was one of the first to ask permission to go. It was during the landing from warship boats that he was shot through the head and died as he lived—a soldier and a man. It was a severe blow to us all, but I regret to say that our casualties have been very heavy right through. The Turks have made a determined resistance, and of course we have had to make good all out positions under hostile fire. Under the circumstances we have been fortunate to make good at all, nor would this have been possible but for the fact that the force consisted of brave men like your son.

All my officers, non-commissioned officers, and men join with me in expressing our deepest sympathy to his mother and yourself. May God give you comfort in your sad loss.

Believe me, sincerely yours,

RAYMOND L. LEANE,
Capt. Commanding C Coy., nth Batn